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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, JANUARY 22, 1898.

[See Frontispiece.]

The original negative from which the eclipse plate, shown in our frontispiece, was made, was taken by Professor CAMPBELL with the Floyd telescope, exposure time five seconds.

Those who are familiar with the difficulty of making even satisfactory contact positives from eclipse negatives, need not be told that a large part of the detail shown by the original is necessarily lost in the reproduction. A notion of the general form of the corona only can be gained from the print; the details must be studied on the original negatives.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Professor JAMES E. KEELER arrived at Mt. Hamilton and assumed his duties as Director of the Lick Observatory on June 1st. Professor CAMPBELL returned to the Observatory from his expedition to India on the same day.

A note concerning Professor SCHAEBERLE's resignation will be found on another page.

ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION OF THE MICROMETERS AT THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

For nearly two years and a half, electric illumination has been used for the micrometers of both the 12- and 36-inch telescopes, and it has proved so satisfactory that oil illumination is no longer in use except on rare occasions and then only in case of emergency. The current is supplied by a storage battery, five cells of which are ordinarily used on a lamp at a time, giving about ten volts, one-half ampere and one-half candle power. The battery is charged from time to time, as may be necessary, by means of a dynamo.

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* Lick Astronomical Department of the University of California.

In each case the electric lamp is fitted to the end of a small wooden cylinder of the same size as the oil lamp previously used. This cylinder takes the place of the oil lamp in the apparatus attached to the micrometer, no change in this being made. Wires run from the lamp through the cylinder to a switch within easy reach of the observer at the eye-end of the telescope. The wires from the battery are brought up to the pier, where a cable is attached of sufficient length to reach any part of the dome. A plug at the end of the cable completes the circuit at the switch.

This arrangement is very satisfactory, and it has decided advantages over oil illumination. It is perfectly under control, any degree of illumination of the wires being easily obtained. It may be instantly extinguished by turning the switch or by withdrawing the plug, and as readily turned on. It is not affected by wind and there is no dripping oil. It may be completely covered up, preventing the escape of extraneous light, which is especially desirable in observing exceedingly faint objects. And it takes but a moment to change to the oil lamp in the case of emergency. W. J. HUSSEY.

THE LOWELL OBSERVATORY CATALOGUE OF DOUBLE STARS.

A most important contribution to double-star astronomy is Dr. T. J. J. SEE's catalogue of "Discoveries and Measures of Double and Multiple Stars in the Southern Heavens," recently published in the *Astronomical Journal.* The catalogue contains the positions for 1900.0, and measures of the position-angle and distance of 500 new stars between the limits 20° and 65° South Declination, which were found by Dr. SEE and Mr. COGSHALL with the 24-inch telescope of the Lowell Observatory during the sixteen months ending December 31, 1897. The components of 122 of the stars are separated by less than 1″, and in many of the wider pairs one component is very faint. With respect to the proportion of close and difficult stars contained, the list therefore takes a high rank. In the course of the work, 500 stars previously known were measured also,* and, Dr. SEE states, more than 100,000 stars were carefully examined.

It is to be regretted that the magnitude of the undertaking

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* Measures to be published later in *A. N.*